

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam*

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 31, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Christopher P. Tenorio will lead the efforts of her Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 7, 2006 general elections. AUSA Tenorio has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the Southern District of California, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters.

The U.S. Department of Justice established a Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative in 2002. The goals of the Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur.

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 7, 2006, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, AUSA/DEO Tenorio will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. He can be reached at (619) 557-7843.

The FBI will also have special agents available in this District to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses. The FBI can be reached at (858) 565-1255 and ask to speak with the duty agent.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington, D.C. at (800) 253-3931 or (202) 307-2767.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Our office intends to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice. Anyone who has information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses should make that information available immediately to my office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division."